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THE NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION
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200 YEARS AGO THE FOUNDERS OF OUR GREAT NATION DECLARED THAT GOVERNMENTS ARE INSTITUTED AMONG MEN TO SECURE CERTAIN RIGHTS, AND AMONG THOSE RIGHTS ARE LIFE, LIBERTY, AND THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS.

ANY READING OF OUR NATIONAL CONSTITUTION AND THE BILL OF RIGHTS CLEARLY INDICATES THAT INDIVIDUAL HUMAN RIGHTS WERE OF VITAL CONCERN TO THE DELEGATES AT THOSE EARLY CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTIONS. BUT WHEN THEY SPOKE OF RIGHTS, THEY MEANT THE RIGHTS OF CITIZENS, PEOPLE, NOT THE RIGHTS OF GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.

IN THE LAST FEW YEARS AND STILL TODAY, MANY PEOPLE IN OUR COUNTRY HAVE LOST FAITH IN THOSE WHO HOLD ELECTED AND APPOINTED POSITIONS IN GOVERNMENT. THEY HAVE SEEN SOME OFFICIALS MORE CONCERNED WITH THEIR OWN PERSONAL "PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS" THAN WITH WORKING FOR THE PEOPLE'S RIGHTS TO LIFE AND LIBERTY. THE PEOPLE OF OUR COUNTRY HAVE BEEN SHOCKED AND DEPRESSED BY THE ACTIONS OF SOME OF OUR NATIONAL LEADERS AND LAWMAKERS. PAST REVELATIONS AND MORE RECENT ALLEGATIONS OF DECEIT, MISCONDUCT AND IMPROPRIETY AT PUBLIC EXPENSE HAVE DIVERTED ATTENTION AND ENERGY FROM THE REAL AND VITAL ISSUES WHICH REMAIN UNATTENDED.

THIS NATION, AND INDEED, THE WORLD IS WAITING AND WATCHING TO SEE IF WE RESPOND TO THE NEEDS OF OUR PEOPLE AND OUR COUNTRY.

THEY WANT TO KNOW IF WE WILL PRACTICE POLITICS TO BETTER THE HUMAN CONDITION OR PLAY POLITICAL GAMES TO PRESERVE OUR OWN POSITIONS. NO LONGER WILL THEY BE SATISFIED BY EMPTY PROMISES; NOR WILL THEY ACCEPT EXCUSES FOR DOING NOTHING. WITHOUT QUESTION THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY IS IN A UNIQUE POSITION. WE ARE IN A POSITION TO STIMULATE RENEWED FAITH IN OUR GOVERNMENT. WE CAN LEAD THE WAY TOWARDS GREATER CONFIDENCE IN OUR FUTURE AND IN THE

PRINCIPLES UPON WHICH THIS NATION WAS FOUNDED. WE CAN HELP TO INSURE DOMESTIC TRANQUILITY AND PROMOTE THE GENERAL WELFARE. HOWEVER, WE CAN DO THIS ONLY IF WE HAVE THE COURAGE AND COMMITMENT TO PROVIDE OUR PEOPLE WITH THE THINGS THEY NEED AND RIGHTLY DESERVE.

WE HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY-AND I BELIEVE A MANDATE-TO PROVIDE THE NEW LEADERSHIP THAT IS NEEDED. WE CAN IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR ALL AMERICANS BY MOVING TOGETHER TO DO THOSE THINGS WE KNOW SHOULD BE DONE:

- *BUILDING MORE AND BETTER HOUSING FOR OUR PEOPLE.
- *PROVIDING MEANINGFUL AND QUALITY EDUCATION FOR OUR CHILDREN.
- *CREATING A PROGRAM OF NATIONAL HEALTH CARE FOR OUR FAMILIES, AND
- *ESTABLISHING A FAIR AND WORKABLE SYSTEM OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE FOR OUR NEEDY.

NOW, I KNOW THAT SOME WILL QUESTION OUR ABILITY TO DO THESE THINGS.

I'VE HEARD MOST OF THE ARGUMENTS AGAINST PROVIDING THESE SERVICES. SOME PEOPLE HAVE SAID WE CAN'T AFFORD IT, THAT WE DON'T HAVE THE MONEY! OTHERS HAVE SAID IT WILL TAKE TOO MUCH TIME! SOME INDIVIDUALS NOW IN OFFICE, FEEL THAT PROVIDING PEOPLE WITH THESE FUNDAMENTAL SERVICES - HEALTH, HOUSING, EDUCATION, JOBS - IS INFLATIONARY.

OUR RESPONSE SHOULD REMIND THEM THAT:

- *IF WE CAN SPEND MILLIONS TO SEND EQUIPMENT TO STUDY THE PLANET MARS, WE CAN BUILD DECENT HOUSING ON EARTH.
- *IF WE CAN TEACH PEOPLE IN OTHER COUNTRIES HOW TO FARM AND WHAT TO EAT AND HOW TO BE HEALTHY, WE CAN BEGIN A PROGRAM OF NATIONAL HEALTH CARE FOR OURSELVES.
- *IF WE CAN GO TO THE MOON AND BRING BACK ROCKS TO STUDY, WE CAN TEACH OUR OWN CHILDREN HOW TO READ.
- *IF WE COULD CREATE A MARSHALL PLAN TO REBUILD THE CITIES OF EUROPE AFTER WORLD WAR II, WE CAN RESOLVE NOW TO HAVE A DOMESTIC MARSHALL PLAN TO REBUILD AMERICAN CITIES.

I BELIEVE WE HAVE THE LEADERSHIP; ALL WE NEED IS THE COMMITMENT AND THE COURAGE.

WE WILL NOMINATE THAT LEADERSHIP AT THIS CONVENTION; AND IF EACH OF US WORKS HARD, THAT NEW LEADERSHIP, OUR CANDIDATES, WILL BE ELECTED IN NOVEMBER.

WE MUST REMEMBER HOWEVER, THAT VICTORY IN THE NOVEMBER ELECTION WILL BE ONLY THE BEGINNING. THE GLAMOUR OF VICTORY LASTS ONLY A BRIEF WHILE. THEN COMES THE REAL TEST--HARD WORK IN THE INTEREST OF OUR NATION. I KNOW THE LEADERS OF OUR PARTY, THE MEMBERS OF OUR PARTY, AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WILL MEET THAT TEST.